

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. Allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the minor amendments made herein.

It is acknowledged with appreciation that claims 1-5, 10, 15-19, 22-25, 29, 31, 32, and 52-63 are considered allowable.

Applicants request that nonelected claims 6-9, 20-21, 26-28, 30, 33-39, 46-51, and 54 be considered for rejoinder. In accordance with MPEP Section 821.04, "[i]n order to be eligible for rejoinder, a claim to a nonelected invention must depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable claim." Specifically, claims 6-9 and 54 depend from allowable claim 1; claims 20-21 depend from allowable claim 15; and claims 26-28 and 30 depend from allowable claim 23. Claims 33-39 and 46-51 have been amended herein to include all the limitations of allowable claim 1. As stated in Restriction Requirement mailed June 30, 2006, claim 1 is a generic claim. And upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants should be entitled to consideration of claims that require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim.

Claims 11-14, 40-45, and 64 have been canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejections made under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103 moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appln. No. 10/825,496
Amdt. dated December 23, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated September 15, 2008

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35502US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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